

Subj: **Bids at Auctions**  
 Date: 1/12/2009 10:28:57 A.M. Central Standard Time  
 From: [EricNumis](#)  
 To: [stuartlevine@comcast.net](mailto:stuartlevine@comcast.net)

Dear Stu:

Thank you for helping me on these bids.

In the Stack Auction Lot 6244 is the Richardson scale which I hope will be bought at \$1500 to \$2000 and please let me know what is the thinking on the situation as I would love to have it.

*3300 bid  
expect 5000 drop it*

In the Spink Schingoethe Auction here is my present thinking

Lot Item 6 Boggy Depot . I am very anxious to get it It is not in good condition but I really need it unless there is an Arkansas nut who goes crazy over it.

*1300 max*

Lot 8 Fort Smith For my cousin Bernard \$1 Maximum bid \$350

Lot 10 Fort Smith For Bernard \$5 Maximum bid \$350

*reprint  
reprint*

Lot 13 Mitchell 25c Use your discretion for me

Lot 14 Mitchell \$1 Use you discretion for me

*8 max  
1300 max*

I am sure you will easily find the sessions at which these are being sold. Thanks Eric

---

New year...new news. Be the first to know what is making [headlines](#).

Subj: **Re: Fwd: Possible article**  
 Date: 1/16/2009 10:35:13 P.M. Central Standard Time  
 From: [freed3@airmail.net](mailto:freed3@airmail.net)  
 To: [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com)

Hi Eric,

I'd love to publish your article, as I'm sure Beth Deisher would also.

It's virtually impossible to time coincidental publishing.

More people would see it in Coin World. It's the kind of thing

Beth might even put on the front page given your reputation, etc.

More people might read it in Paper Money, and of course

it would be indexed in perpetuity in Paper Money too.

Fred

On Fri 09/01/16 21:00 , EricNumis@aol.com sent:

> -----  
 > From: EricNumis  
 > To: Freed3@airmail.net  
 > Sent: 1/16/2009 7:55:45 P.M. Central Standard Time  
 > Subj: Possible article  
 > Dear Fred: I have an interesting new find in American paper money  
 > errors that I want to have you advise me on. Errors are rather  
 > popular at present. I have a new type of American numismatic paper  
 > money error. The town it was issued in is not in the state named.  
 > That is an important error in my view. It is genuine. It is not an  
 > altered piece. It is a piece of scrip with all printed text. The  
 > printer or text writer was confused in geography and apparently took  
 > a guess. This is an error I have never heard of before and experts  
 > have missed it. It may be unique as a type of error. I have a  
 > problem as to how it should be announced. Should I give the facts to  
 > Coin World as a news article or shall I give it to you for PAPER  
 > MONEY or both? Is there a way of having both come out at virtually  
 > the same time? Each could develop its own write up. This assumes  
 > both are interested. I know I am not disclosing some essential  
 > facts at the moment but that is to tickle your interest. My  
 > best. Eric.

> -----  
 > INAUGURATION '09: Get complete coverage from the nation's  
 > capital.

> -----  
 > INAUGURATION '09: Get complete coverage [1] from the nation's  
 > capital.

> Links:

> -----  
 > [1] <http://wmail.airmail.net/>  
 > <http://www.aol.com?ncid=emlcntaolcom00000027>

>  
 >

---- Msg sent via Internet America Webmail - [www.internetamerica.com](http://www.internetamerica.com)

Subj: (no subject)  
Date: 1/27/2009  
To: [Freed3@airmail.net](mailto:Freed3@airmail.net)  
airmail.net

Dear Fred:

The scrip note about which I have been teasing you is a 50c Reuben Wright piece issued from Boggy Depot, Western Arkansas, Jan. 1, 1862. This is really from your beloved Choctaw Nation which mistakenly was thought by the printer to be in Arkansas. It is illustrated in the Bergett paper money book and is said to be unique.

This is the only numismatic error I have ever heard of which has the state of issue wrong. It also is the only paper money to my knowledge to have the printed names of President Jeff Davis and Vice President Alex Stephens on it as loads of issues have portraits of those men but there names are not mentioned.

The note has the name of the issuer printed on the front and his written name is signed on the back.

A possible reason for the state error is that when the US Post Office was established in Boggy Depot it was improperly listed as in Arkansas. Since Arkansas became a state in 1836 the US Post Office might have been thinking it was still Arkansas Territory which included what is now more or less the Oklahoma area.

Now if the above does not appeal to you as an intriguing subject to write about then Oklahoma's not OK.

My prior comments about attempting to have Coin World publish their write up at almost the same time as yours still stand, Please give me your thinking now.

Eric



Subj: **Re: (no subject)**  
 Date: 1/28/2009 1:38:58 P.M. Central Standard Time  
 From: [freed3@airmail.net](mailto:freed3@airmail.net)  
 To: [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com)

Boggy Depot was definitely in Choctaw Nation.

Attached is a map which shows it in the very western part of Choctaw Nation, a long way from Arkansas.,

I like the story fine,

Fred

On Wed 09/01/28 14:25 , EricNumis@aol.com sent:

> Dear Fred: My copy of the Chronicles of Oklahoma has a footnote  
 > which says that the Post Office record should read Choctaw instead  
 > of Cherokee but fails to mention that Arkansas is also wrong. This  
 > may be the basis for the confusion on the scrip. Now what do you  
 > think about writing up the matter? Eric In a message  
 > dated 1/28/2009 11:52:53 A.M. Central Standard Time,  
 > freed3@airmail.net writes:  
 > Hi Eric, the Chronicles of Oklahoma state:  
 >  
 > In the records of the Post Office Department, the Depot was  
 > officially designated as Boggy Depot, Cherokee2 Nation, Arkansas,  
 > when the first post office was  
 > established at the place on November 5, 1849, with William R. Guy as  
 > postmaster. Early in 1850 a star route was established and the stage  
 > coach came dashing into  
 > town once a week, with the mail from Fort Smith. From that time Old  
 > Boggy Depot remained the mart of trade for this part of the country  
 > until after the construction  
 > of the first railroad through the Indian Territory.

> Fred

> On Wed 09/01/28 12:14 , EricNumis@aol.com sent:

> > -----  
 > > From: EricNumis  
 > > To: Freed3@aurmail.net  
 > > Sent: 1/27/2009 3:10:24 P.M. Central Standard Time  
 > > Subj: (no subject)  
 > > Dear Fred: The scrip note about which I have been teasing you is  
 > > a 50c Reuben Wright piece issued from Boggy Depot, Western  
 > > Arkansas,  
 > > Jan. 1, 1862. This is really from your beloved Choctaw Nation  
 > > which  
 > > mistakenly was thought by the printer to be in Arkansas. It is  
 > > illustrated in the Bergett paper money book and is said to be  
 > > unique. This is the only numismatic error I have ever heard of  
 > > which  
 > > has the state of issue wrong. It also is the only paper money to  
 > > my  
 > > knowledge to have the printed names of President Jeff Davis and  
 > > Vice  
 > > President Alex Stephens on it as loads of issues have portraits of  
 > > those men but there names are not mentioned. The note has the

> name  
 > > of the issuer printed on the front and his written name is signed  
 > on  
 > > the back. A possible reason for the state error is that when the  
 > US  
 > > Post Office was established in Boggy Depot it was improperly  
 > listed  
 > > as in Arkansas. Since Arkansas became a state in 1836 the US Post  
 > > Office might have been thinking it was still Arkansas Territory  
 > > which included what is now more or less the Oklahoma area. Now  
 > if  
 > > the above does not appeal to you as an intriguing subject to write  
 >  
 > > about then Oklahoma's not OK. My prior comments about attempting  
 > to  
 > > have Coin World publish their write up at almost the same time as  
 >  
 > > yours still stand, Please give me your thinking now.  
 >  
 > > Eric  
 > > -----  
 > > From Wall Street to Main Street and everywhere in between, stay  
 > > up-to-date with the latest news.  
 > > -----  
 > > From Wall Street to Main Street and everywhere in between, stay  
 > > up-to-date with the latest news.  
 > >  
 > ---- Msg sent via Internet America Webmail - [www.internetamerica.com](http://www.internetamerica.com)  
 > -----  
 > From Wall Street to Main Street and everywhere in between, stay  
 > up-to-date with the latest news.  
 >

---- Msg sent via Internet America Webmail - [www.internetamerica.com](http://www.internetamerica.com)

Subj: **Re: Fwd: Request**  
Date: 1/29/2009 8:41:10 P.M. Central Standard Time  
From: [freed3@airmail.net](mailto:freed3@airmail.net)  
To: [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com)

Hi Eric,

sure I'll be happy to do so.

I got a note about you, MIT, Col. Green and the Byrd

Expedition from Dave Bowers that I'm running as a

Letter to the Editor in the next issue. See attached.

I'll try to get to the post office tomorrow.

And I'm looking forward to seeing your article

on the Choctaw Nation note.

Regards, Fred

On Thu 09/01/29 21:05 , [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com) sent:

> -----  
> From: EricNumis  
> To: [Freed3@airmail.net](mailto:Freed3@airmail.net)  
> Sent: 1/29/2009 7:26:54 P.M. Central Standard Time  
> Subj: Request  
> Dear Fred: The current Paper Money Magazine has a marvelous  
> article on Colonel Edward Howland Robinson Green from whose estate I  
> acquired many coins. I was also at college when our MIT class helped  
> his radio station transmit and receive medical messages about a sick  
> member of the Byrd Antarctic Expedition in Little America as you may  
> know. I need an extra copy if you will be kind enough to send it.  
> The article has several references to his relationship with MIT and  
> his wide interests which I was unaware of. Thanks in advance.  
> My best Eric  
> -----  
> From Wall Street to Main Street and everywhere in between, stay  
> up-to-date with the latest news.  
> -----  
> From Wall Street to Main Street and everywhere in between, stay  
> up-to-date with the latest news.  
>

--- Msg sent via Internet America Webmail - [www.internetamerica.com](http://www.internetamerica.com)



Ms Michele Organo  
Coin World  
Box 150  
Sidney OH 45365-0150

Feb 4, 2009

Dear Michele:

Please excuse a handwritten letter but it easier for me. To try to help you write up an article or articles I suggested to Beth involving paper money with errors and other oddities involving the Indian Territory and Arkansas during the Civil War. I am sending you photocopies of some items in our collection with some written comments on them. Many have multiple redemption locations.

You have in your library Rathert and Burgett, both individuals having been my good friends and who stimulated my continued interest in the subjects with reading their writings. Some of my comments are not in their books.

I enclose a copy of a memo I wrote long ago about the Mayers issues.

I also enclose the photostats divided into groups for convenience but can be rotated in and out as needed for study.

5 items in Group E with emphasis on Errors.

5 items in Group I and means issued in Indian Territory

8 items in Group D means the denomination counters are in various printed form

4 items in Group P means payable in Indian Territory but issued in Arkansas

1 item in Group L means payable in Louisiana notes (I can send copies of some secured by Corp'd bond or Missouri bonds if that is important)

After you decide how to divide the material by topic I will try to help further. After you review the matter I will be glad to discuss it with you so please call me or write me. I hope some of this is new.

My best

Eric

for Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society  
6450 Cecil Ave., St Louis MO 63105  
Tel 314 727 0850.

Subj: **re; errors on notes**  
Date: 2/17/2009 2:21:14 P.M. Central Standard Time  
From: [morzano@coinworld.com](mailto:morzano@coinworld.com)  
To: [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com)

Eric:

Thank you so much for taking the time to put together the packet of photocopies of notes from your collection.

I started to look through what you sent me but have had to stop. We're in the production phase of the next issue of *Coin World's Paper Money Values* magazine.

As soon as it is on its way to the printers, I will be back to studying the photocopies and information you sent.

Thanks again for all your help and guidance.

Michele



THREE DOLLARS



Underwood Bald Spence



We promise to pay the  
GOODS AT OUR STORE  
FIVE



Underwood Bald Spence

25 TWENTY-FIVE CENTS. 25

FORT SMITH, ARK., May 1, 1862.

DUE THE BEARER,

**Twenty-Five Cents,**  
IN CONFEDERATE NOTES,

When the sum of Five Dollars and upwards is presented.

No. 208  
E. S. MITCHELL.

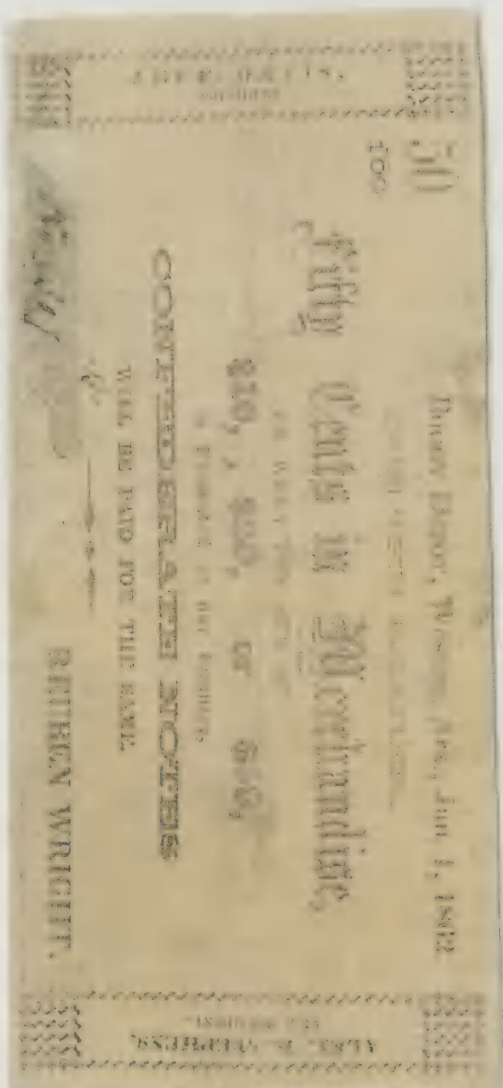
Spink Smythe

Lot 13

Sale 291

01/14/2009





Spink Smythe Lot 6

Spink Smythe Lot 6

Sale 291

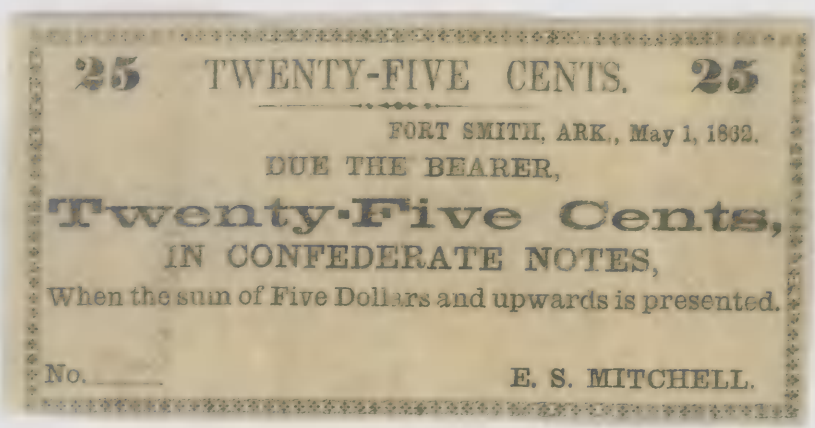
01/14/2009







Identical note in Bugzett p. 10. Said to be unique.



See also  
almost  
identical  
print from  
Fort Smith  
Companion  
(p. 94 in  
Portrait)  
Similar to Bugzett  
236-1 but  
printed signature  
of less than \$1.00.

Spink Smythe Lot 6  
Sale 291 01/14/2009

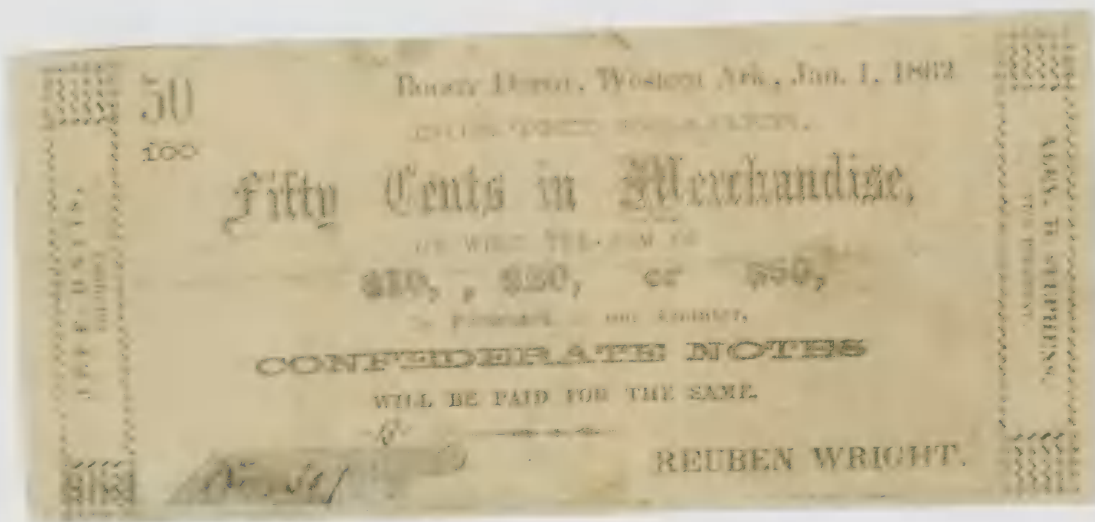
Spink Smythe Lot 13  
Sale 291 01/14/2009

Back of  
50¢ Reuben 1/1/62



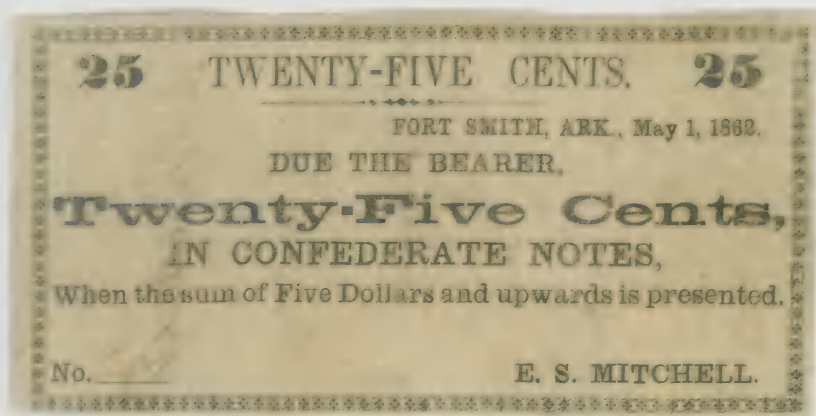
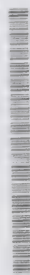
Back of  
2¢  
Mitchell  
May 1, 1862





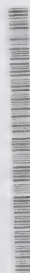
Spink Smythe Lot 6

Sale 291 01/14/2009



Spink Smythe Lot 13

Sale 291 01/14/2009





Sent Mabel Organo, Corn World  
2/2/09 with letter.

Group L 25¢ Washington Exchange (Secured by  
Group P { \$1.00 Sherman & Dickson (Ft Gibson mentioned)  
5¢ Mitchell Doaksville & Boggy  
25¢ " only Ft Smith  
\$1.00 " Doaksville & Boggy

Group V { 1.50 White & Hanley  
1.00 " " Plate B  
1.25 " " Plate B  
25¢ " " Plate C  
25¢ " " B  
50¢ " " B  
75¢ " " No Plate  
1.00 " " No Plate

Group  
Indian  
Ten  
IND { 50¢ North Fork  
\$1.00 Nash Ft Gibson  
25¢ Ft Gibson  
50¢ Boggy Depot  
50¢ Nash Ft Gibson

Group  
F { \$2.50 Confederate. Moore  
\$1.00 Period after 1.00. Wilson  
50¢ Sherman & Dickson 25¢ border  
2 \$50 White & Hanley B  
\$2.50 White & Hanley B

CW

800 673 8311

[Skip Navigation](#)[Table of Contents](#)[Index](#)[Volume List](#)[Search All Volumes](#)[Home](#)

# **Chronicles of Oklahoma**

## **Volume 5, No. 1**

### **March, 1927**

## **OLD BOGGY DEPOT**

**BY MURIEL H. WRIGHT**

Page 4

Among the most interesting of the early settlements of Oklahoma, established before the Civil War, was Old Boggy Depot. This was once the home of many notable characters that are prominent in the history of our State, and through it passed millions in gold with the Western trade, for it was a flourishing center on the main road from the North to Texas, and from Fort Smith to points in Southern and Western Oklahoma, Fort Washita, Fort Arbuckle, and, after the Civil War, Fort Sill.

Old Boggy Depot received its name from Boggy River (Clear Boggy), the town being situated about a mile west of that stream, just out of the bottom, on the dividing ridge between the river and a little creek called Sandy Creek. It was suggested at one time that Boggy River might have been named after Charles Bougie (or Bogy) who traded with the Osages at the mouth of the Verdigris River, as early as 1806, but in reality the name is a translation of that given it by the French traders, of the eighteenth century, who called it "Vazzures," from the word "vaseux," meaning miry or boggy. The name of the river is mentioned in 1805, by Dr. John Sibley, United States Indian Agent, in his report to General Henry Dearborn, Secretary of War, when he described the country along the Red River. Dr. Sibley wrote that in ascending the Red River "we arrive at the mouth of the Vazzures, or Boggy River, which is about two hundred yards wide, soft, miry bottom, the water whitish but well tasted."

The first building at Old Boggy Depot was a log cabin erected by some Chickasaws, in 1837, who were of the party that came west from Mississippi with Cyrus Harris, afterward a leading chief of the Chickasaw Nation. This cabin was still standing in the yard of Captain G. B. Hester's home, at Old Boggy, during the Civil War when it was being used for slave quarters. The Chickasaw annuity grounds were located in the vicinity when that tribe came west to live

---

<sup>1</sup>The term, "Old Boggy Depot," is here used to distinguish the earlier town from New Boggy, q. v.



## Page 6

after their treaty with the Choctaws, in 1837. Rev. Cyrus Kingsbury, the well-known missionary, mentioned visiting the place, in a letter dated June 30, 1840, in which he wrote that he intended to hold a religious meeting at "the Chickasaw Depot." In early correspondence of other persons the place was simply mentioned as "the Depot on the Boggy." At that time Old Boggy was in the eastern part of the Chickasaw District, Choctaw Nation, but in 1855, by the terms of a new treaty, the boundary was changed between the Choctaw and the Chickasaw country, and then it was on the line separating Atoka and Blue counties, in the western part of Pushmataha District, Choctaw Nation.

In the records of the Post Office Department, the Depot was officially designated as Boggy Depot, Cherokee<sup>2</sup> Nation, Arkansas, when the first post office was established at the place on November 5, 1849, with William R. Guy as postmaster. Early in 1850 a star route was established and the stage coach came dashing into town once a week, with the mail from Fort Smith. From that time Old Boggy Depot remained the mart of trade for this part of the country until after the construction of the first railroad through the Indian Territory.

The first church at Old Boggy was organized by the Presbyterian missionaries, Rev. Cyrus Kingsbury and Rev. Ebenezer Hotchkin, in August, 1840. By December of that year there were thirty members in the congregation, fifteen of whom were of the old Monroe Church in the Chickasaw Nation, east of the Mississippi. Under the auspices of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church; in the fifties, a church building was erected at Old Boggy Depot, by Charles Sparrow, a brick mason from England, who burned the brick for the new building, just east of town. It not only served as a church and school until after the Civil War, but was the meeting place of many important gatherings in early days. A session of the Choctaw Council was held in this building in 1859, when Basil LeFlore was governor of the Choctaw Nation. It was also used as a hospital during the War, many sad scenes being witnessed there by Mr. G. B. Hester, Mrs. John Kingsbury, Mrs. Allen Wright, and other

<sup>2</sup> Error for Choctaw Nation. The Postoffice record should read Boggy Depot; Choctaw Nation.

## Page 7

good women of the community, who helped minister to the needs of the sick soldiers. At one time a wife of a Confederate soldier had followed her husband from Texas and had found him dying of wounds at Boggy Depot. The next morning after her arrival, she was found weeping before the door of the Church, for the spirit of her dear one had passed on; that she might prepare him for burial, she was pounding down leaden bullets for weights to close his eyes, while he lay on one of the benches, wrapped in

his blanket of gray.

Shortly after the War, the brick Church was abandoned, as the building was considered unsafe, a log house on the main street of town being used temporarily for a church and school. In the later sixties, a new school house had been built and a church was erected across the road from Governor Allen Wright's residence, in the west edge of town. At different times, the children of several Chickasaw families, who had no school near their homes, attended the day school at Old Boggy, being boarded and cared for by Miss Mary Chiffey, a young Chickasaw woman, who was an earnest Christian and member of the Presbyterian Church. .

Among the teachers who taught the day school at Old Boggy were Rev. Hamilton Balentine, J. L. Caldwell, Miss Sylvester, and Miss Clara Eddy. The latter was a graduate of the Emma Willard School, of Troy, New York, and had served as a missionary to the Creeks and then to the Chickasaws, before the war. She was a woman of fine personality and great strength of character, exerting an influence for good and upright living that was never forgotten by her pupils.

After the war, she taught school for many terms at Boggy Depot, and also, at Caddo, until her death in 1884.

Mr. Ballentine was a missionary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, being made the first superintendent of the Wapanucka Female Institute (Wapanucka Academy), established by the Chickasaw Council and first opened in 1852. Though Wapanucka Academy<sup>3</sup> was located about

<sup>3</sup>Wapanucka Academy was located on Wapanucka or Delaware Creek. So named because some Delaware Indians lived on the ridges along this creek, years before the Civil War. The name, "Wapanucka," is derived from "Wapanachki," meaning "easterners" or "eastern land people," the name by which the Delawares, as a part of the Algonquian, linguistic family, were known in colonial times. Their original homes were found in the country from Pennsylvania to Maine, along the Atlantic coast.

## Page 8

twelve miles northwest of Old Boggy, yet the citizens of the town took great interest in the school and considered the teachers and those in charge a part of the community. In 1855, Mr. Ballentine's health forced him to resign his work for a time, during which Rev. Charles Wilson was in charge of Wapanucka Academy. At the close of the war, Mr. Ballentine continued his work as a missionary, and, also, taught the day school at Old Boggy, for a term.

During the war, Confederate troops were stationed at Boggy Depot, the military quarters occupying about thirty acres in the southwestern part of town, where several rows of log cabins were erected for the soldiers, and a cannon was set that boomed forth a salute every evening at sundown. About half way down the main street of the



town, near the public well, stood a tall flag pole from the top of which the banner of the Confederacy floated bravely for four years.

This spot was made lively from time to time when the Choctaw and Chickasaw troops galloped around and around the flag, splitting the air with Indian warwhoops and singing the Choctaw war song,

"Yakeh walih, he kanah he!  
Yakeh walih, he kanah he!"

Though no real battles were fought in the vicinity during the war, there were constant reminders of the actual fighting taking place elsewhere. After the severe defeat of the Confederates, in July, 1863, at the Battle of Honey Springs or Elk Creek, in the Creek Nation, Colonel Stand Watie's command, ragged and hungry, fell back as far as Boggy Depot. At another time a large party of "Cherokee Pins" (Federal Scouts) attempted a raid on the town, some of them being so bold as to ride up and down the front porch of one of the residences, whooping and firing into the house.

At the beginning of the war, one of the wealthiest men of the town was Reuben Wright, no relation, by the way, of Allen Wright. Reuben Wright was a New Englander, who had established a store at Old Boggy, having acquired considerable wealth in trading establishments located at Skullyville and Doaksville in the eastern part of the Choctaw Nation. When the war began, he was paid a large sum of gold by the Chickasaw government for supplying the academies with goods and provisions; upon hearing that the Confederates

## Page 9

were after him, he decided to leave the country and return to the North. In making preparations for his long journey, he procured a large box, and after securing a lot of deer hides, proceeded to lay his gold between the skins, thus packing it for safe keeping. He then hired a body guard and set out with his money from Boggy Depot, overland, for Galveston. There he succeeded in running the blockade and narrowly missed being shot before he escaped for New England.

Being centrally located for both the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations, the town had attained a position of importance in the Indian Territory before 1860, its citizens, even at that time, taking pride in community interests and being active in furthering the development of the town. In the treaty made between the Choctaws and the Chickasaws and the Confederacy, in July, 1861, the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations were constituted a judicial district of the Confederate states, called the Tuskahoma District, Boggy Depot being designated as the court town. Among the signers of this treaty were Allen Wright, George W. Harkins, and James Riley, all citizens of Old Boggy. At the end of the war, Allen Wright and James Riley were again among the Choctaw delegates selected to make the treaty of 1866, with the United States. Under its terms, a land office was to be located at Boggy Depot, as the headquarters for the survey and subsequent allotting of all Choctaw and Chickasaw lands, but events in the United States interfered with the fulfillment of these terms. It is interesting to note here



that thirty years later the Government began the survey and allotting of all tribal lands in the Indian Territory by means of the Dawes Commission, and the share of business which would have fallen to Old Boggy's portion in 1866, helped to build up the foundations of a number of other towns that had sprung up in the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations, during these years, which are now thriving cities in Oklahoma.

With renewed hopes of progress under the terms of the Treaty of 1866, and with fresh impetus given the western trade over the Fort Smith road, Boggy Depot again assumed its position as a thriving town. In 1866, the Choctaw Council granted Captain Charles LeFlore the privilege of establishing a toll-bridge where the Fort Smith road crossed Boggy River, a mile east of town. Since the tide of immigration to Texas

Page 10

and other points out West increased and great droves of cattle and horses were being driven north, Captain LeFlore's bridge proved a lucrative business, the grant of the Council having stipulated the rates of toll as follows: "for each four-wheeled wagon or vehicle drawn by a span of horses, mules or oxen, twenty-five cents; and twenty-five cents for each additional span; twelve and a half cents for man and horse; for each animal in a drove of horses, mules, cattle, hogs, or sheep, one cent; and for a single horse, mule, or other animal, five cents."

Main Street of Old Boggy Depot bore the appearance of prosperity. Here were to be seen pretentious residences, neat cottages, a hotel, several large two-story buildings, and several smaller buildings, of which one was a bakery and another an apothecary's shop. The north side of the street also boasted a flagstone walk for some distance.

Along this thoroughfare creaked the great tar-pole wagons loaded with provisions and goods for the western military camps. These wagons were drawn by six to eight yoke of huge oxen each of which were branded O T (Overland Transit). In the summer a smell of tar arose from the tar-buckets swinging underneath the wagons, and the oxen, their tongues hanging out, panted with the heat as they slowly but patiently obeyed the crack of the "black-snake" whips and the cries of their drivers. If it was late in the afternoon when the freight wagons made their appearance, they continued their way to "Little Round Prairie," west of town. There camp was made, the oxen yoked and belled and turned loose to graze for the night. At evening and at dawn the different notes of the ox bells made sweet music that still lingers in the hearts of some of the old-timers who grew up to love Old Boggy Depot.

The town had its Masonic Lodge, too, organized by Rev. J. S. Murrow, the first lodge in the present State of Oklahoma, after the Civil War. It was named "Oklahoma Lodge" by Gov. Allen Wright, and received its charter from the Grand Lodge of Arkansas in October, 1869. Its meetings were held on the upper floor of the new church building. The charter members were Rev. R. J. Hogue, Gov. Allen Wright, Capt. G. B. Hester, Joseph J. Phillips, James Riley, Giles Thompson, Captain Drennan, A. J. Martin, Joseph Ward, George Colbert, J. D. Davis, George Downing, and Rev. J. S. Murrow.

Page 11

Giles Thompson was a prosperous Choctaw citizen who operated a salt works on Salt Creek, about three miles south of Old Boggy Depot. People from other communities many miles away often visited the town on their way to buy salt at Thompson's works. One old-timer has particularly spoken of the purity of the salt manufactured here, saying "Yo' had to have two silver wheels (holding up a forefinger and thumb to indicate a dollar) to buy a bushel, but yo' meat sho' didn't spile when yo' used it!" One time the people in the neighborhood were greatly excited when Jesse James and his men, the notorious robber gang from Missouri, swooped down on the salt works and robbed Giles Thompson of several hundred dollars in gold that he had saved up and had hidden in his house. As there were no banks in the country in early days, people either left their money with the merchants in town, or hid it away at home.

A unique enterprise that flourished during several fall seasons should not be omitted in recounting Old Boggy's history. At a particular place in the creek,<sup>4</sup> northeast of town, the water ran swiftly over a bed of rocks; here a mill, something like an old-fashioned sorghum mill, was set up by Captain Hester for extracting and cleaning the seeds of bois d'arc apples which could be found in great quantities in Boggy bottom. The apples were first crushed in the mill, the pulp running into a trough sitting in the swift water, where the seeds were washed clean. The seeds were then taken out, and after being dried, were sacked and sent by ox wagons to Fort Smith; from there they were shipped to points in Missouri and Kansas and sold for planting osage-orange hedges, popularly used instead of fences on the farms in those states.

<sup>4</sup>This creek was at that time often erroneously called Delaware Creek; it was really the west branch of Boggy River which divided into two streams, about six miles west of north of Boggy Depot, forming what was then called "The Island." The two branches joined again south of Captain LeFlore's bridge which was over the east branch. The mouth of Delaware Creek empties; into the main streams of Boggy River, some distance above the north end of "The Island." The Fort Smith road passed over the lower end of "The Island," thus crossing the two branches of Boggy about 100 yards above their confluence. The River is a fickle stream for when Captain LeFlore built his bridge in 1866, its east branch, in this vicinity, was the larger, but when the flour mill was built the west branch carried the most water; to-day the main body of water flows through what was a dry slough, leaving the mill dam in a deep, almost waterless channel to the west.

**Muriel H. Wright.**

---

Page 12

Osage-orange hedges may be seen there even to-day, probably many of them having been started from the seeds that came from the vicinity of Old Boggy Depot?

Finally, another enterprise that enlisted the enthusiasm and co-operation of the citizens of the vicinity, was the establishment of a flour mill and cotton gin on the



creek, a half mile northeast of town, by Gov. Allen Wright. This was an important undertaking, for there was no other mill like it throughout the southern part of the Indian Territory at that time. For several years the people living within a radius of seventy-five miles came to have their wheat ground here. The building record of this mill furnishes a little history in itself, for it seems as if everyone in the vicinity of Old Boggy had some business with the mill or took part in its building. In the record appear the names of R. L. Loyd, G. B. Hester, J. J. Phillips, J. L. Caldwell, J. Parker Gibbons, Ben Carter, Dr. A. A. Taylor, Rev. J. Y. Bryce, Milton Brown, Lafayette Mosely, Dr. T. J. Bond, Henry Hotchkin, Dr. Alfred Dunn and many others. Then there is a part of the miller's account of the wheat and corn ground, of the cotton ginned and hauled to Texas, altogether giving a word picture of a part —of the life that took place at Old Boggy.

The record states, "Commenced to work on Mill House Aug. 22d, 1873—Commenced to grind flour Aug. 19th, 1874," giving the total cost as \$8,055.25. A part of the machinery, the best made at that time, was listed as consisting of "Cottongin press, Water wheel, Bolting cloth, Gearing shafts, Pulleys, Belt, Turbine wheel, etc." In order to accommodate the "elevators" and the "smutter" of the flour mill, the mill-house, itself, was a substantial two-story building, erected on a well laid stone foundation and heavy sills, about eight feet higher than the bank of the creek, to be above high water. Outside were heavy staircases leading to the first floor and to the cotton platform of the gin-room. On the inside, one large room contained the hopper, the bolter, and other machinery of the flour mill; another room was the gin-room, with a well laid press floor, where were the levers, the screw, etc., of the cotton gin.

Among the laborers of the mill, the names of the negro workers, well known as the old slaves and servants in the community, are listed. One of these was Johnson Cline (or

## Page 13

Love), who held first place for his honesty and trustworthiness. As a teamster and a past master in handling the oxen that he loved, he freighted from Fort Smith for the merchants of Boggy Depot for years, driving many a wagon load of merchandise and boxes of gold and silver, along the Fort Smith road, without the loss of so much as a penny to his employers. He was an amusing character, with his wooly hair tightly plaited in many little braids carefully rolled with pieces of eel-skin; with his face wrinkling up and his white teeth shining when he gave his chuckling laugh.

One time Captain LeFlore's bridge over Boggy River was in need of repairs, a temporary crossing being made some distance down stream where the banks were steep and the water was deep. As it happened Johnson was the first to cross here; a few hours later he drove into town, his big oxen still wet and steaming from floundering in the mud and water of the crossing. Someone asked, "Well, Johnson, how'd you find the new ford?"

"Huh, call dat a fo'd?" grinned Johnson. "Needs a fe'y boat!"

While it may not properly be a part of the history of Old Boggy Depot, yet a little story



of Johnson's love affairs may not be amiss here. He had two ardent lady loves, by the names of Malvina and Polly, buxom negro girls, who were exceedingly jealous of one another. In fact, Johnson, with his eel-skin covered braids, was lost sight of in the fierce rivalry that existed between the two; one day Malvina would be about to win, then Polly by a coup d'etat would get ahead. In the meantime, Johnson was the victim of frequent admonishings, of "I declare, Johnson!" and "Tut, tut, Johnson!" from certain citizens of Old Boggy, on days when first one and then the other of their kitchens shone less brightly. But Johnson would only hang his head and grin sheepishly; it was quite evident that it was hard for him to make two kitchens shine at the same time. In the records of the Old Boggy flour mill, appears the entry, "Oct. 1st Pd. by 1 bu corn Malvina on Johnson Cline's a/c \$1.00" On the next line, evidently set down a few hours later, one finds, "Oct. 1st Pd. by order of Polly on Johnson Cline's a/c \$2.25." But in the long siege that lasted during many trips of the ox teams over the Fort Smith road, Malvina finally won

#### Page 14

In 1871-72, constant travel along the stage road through Old Boggy Depot to Denison, Texas, via Fort Washita, was increased by the passage back and forth of the men engaged in the construction of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad, the first railroad through the Indian Territory, the survey for the right-of-way lying about twelve miles east of town. Boggy Depot continued to flourish but soon found itself having to compete with the rival towns that sprang up along the railroad. Joseph J. Phillips moved his store of goods and set up a large mercantile establishment at Atoka. About this time, the old stage road took a new route, crossing Boggy River about three miles south of Captain LeFlore's bridge, where Julius Folsom had recently been granted the right to erect a toll-bridge. The new road struck the former stage line to Fort Washita, about two miles south of Old Boggy Depot. Here, T. D. Griffith, the Choctaw and Chickasaw agent, established the agency house and a small hotel was built, the point being called New Boggy. Captain Hester afterward moved his store to this place and was made postmaster of New Boggy, on January 22, 1874; the name of New Boggy being changed to Boggy Depot on December 26, 1883. In the meantime, Old Boggy was gradually deserted by its former citizens. Since New Boggy was situated twelve miles from the railroad and travel overland on the stage line was diverted to other points, it never amounted to anything more than a small, inland village. Its name still appears on the map of Atoka County, a country store and postoffice being located there.

As for the people that lived at Old Boggy Depot, no better class could be found in the West. Here lived William R. Guy, whose son became governor of the Chickasaws, and whose grandson is Congressman Charles D. Carter, during the twenty years since statehood having represented the Third District of Oklahoma. Dr. T. J. Bond received his education in Kentucky and was one of the 'first Choctaws, before the war, to finish in medicine. Mrs. Bond (afterward Mrs. Robb of Atoka), a daughter of Rev. Israel Folsom, was prominent in the Order of the Eastern Star and in Baptist Church work. Captain G. B. Hester, who became wealthy as a merchant, was originally from North Carolina. Mrs. Hester had come to the Chickasaw country as a teacher and a missionary in the Methodist Church, before the war; she is still living

## Page 15

in Muskogee, where she is honored and loved. Their daughter, Daisy Hester, is the wife of Ex-Senator Robert L. Owen, of Oklahoma. Rev. Allen Wright, another resident, was four years governor of the Choctaw Nation; he was a scholar and earnest Christian worker for his people. Mrs. Wright had been a teacher and a missionary in the Presbyterian Church. Their four sons and their nephew, Alinton Telle, who grew up under their care, were educated as professional men. Dr. E. N. Wright of Olney is a prominent citizen of Oklahoma; the late Rev. Frank H. Wright was the noted Indian evangelist and singer; Allen Wright, Jr., is a lawyer of McAlester; J. Brooks Wright is a field clerk in the United States Indian service. The late Alinton Telle was a well-known lawyer of Atoka; his son is also a lawyer and is now serving his third term as clerk of the District Court of Atoka and Coal counties.

Captain Charles LeFlore was another prominent Choctaw citizen of Old Boggy Depot. One of his daughters was the wife of Ex-Governor Lee Cruce of Oklahoma. George W. Harkins, a polished and well-educated Choctaw, lived in the vicinity and was counted as one of the citizens of the town. His grandson is Lee Harkins, of Tulsa, editor of the New Oklahoma magazine, "The American Indian." The late Hon. Charles Hobart Heald, a resident of Old Boggy Depot before and during the Civil War, married Eliza Guy; members of his family are wealthy owners of oil interests at Healdton, Oklahoma. Surely a charm of good fortune seems to have followed the name of Boggy Depot, for many other prominent persons could be named, whose families once lived there.

To-day Old Boggy Depot has disappeared except for the ruins of two or three houses, and the residence of Gov. Allen Wright, which is still preserved. This substantial home was built in 1860, from the great oaks that grew in the vicinity. The tall chimneys built by the Englishman, Charles Sparrow, are still standing as perfect as when they were first erected. The old-fashioned windows, the hand-dressed doors with their long panels, and the wide porch across the front of the house lend a charm to this one of the few remaining pre-war homes in Oklahoma. It was here that many persons had a happy sojourn, and many distinguished travelers found a hearty welcome. The place is now owned by Mrs. Anna Wright Lud-

## Page 16

low, who is making efforts to preserve it, as it appeared years ago.

Other remains of Old Boggy are clumps of china-berry trees that mark the sites of former residences, a portion of the stage line road or Main Street, and the old cemetery. The land around this cemetery was purchased a short time ago by Mrs. Anna Wright Ludlow and donated to a board of trustees, made up of persons who lived in the community, thus perpetuating this historic spot, where lie the graves of Rev. Israel Folsom, Rev. Cyrus Kingsbury, Gov. Allen Wright, Harriet Mitchel Wright, Miss Clara Eddy, and many others who so long ago worked for the advancement of Oklahoma. As if to make more complete the work of these persons who devoted their lives to our beautiful State, is the grave of a soldier who fell in the cause of America in



the late European War.

At one side of the cemetery are a number of unmarked graves all in a row. One of these has a rough sand-stone marker, bearing the following inscription:

D. J. Hendrickson  
Was born in DeCalb Co. Tenn. Aged 31 years  
Killed Feb. 26th 1864  
CO E 20th T. D. C. Regt.

**NAMES OF BUILDINGS ON PLAN OF BOGGY DEPOT  
(1865 - 1874 )**

1. Gov. Allen Wright's residence.
2. John. Kingsbury residence.
3. House built by Mr. Lore (cobbler).
- 4-5. Wood shop and residence of A. J. Martin.
6. Dr. T. J. Bond's residence.
7. Store of Reuben Wright—later store of Edward Dwight.
8. Temporary schoolhouse (hewed logs)—later Aunt Lou's bakery,
9. Apothecary shop.
10. Joseph J. Phillips' store.
11. Mr. Maurer's blacksmith shop.
12. Mr. Maurer's residence.
13. Miss Mary Chiffey's residence.
14. Brick Church—Hospital during the War.
15. Livery Barn.
16. J. J. Phillips' residence.
17. James Riley's residence.
18. Old graves.
19. Dr. Moore's residence.
20. Barn for Stage Coach Company.
21. Capt. G. B. Hester & John Kingsbury store.
22. Dr. Bond's office.

Page 17

23. Store of Mr. Ford.
24. Barn for Hotel
25. Tom Brown's blacksmith shop.
26. Capt. Charles LeFlore's residence.
27. Col. Wm. R. Guy's Hotel.
28. Old graves.
29. Capt. G. B. Hester's residence.
30. New schoolhouse.
31. New Church—upper floor used by Masonic Lodge.

**N. B.** The plan of Old Boggy Depot, which is submitted, gives most of the main buildings, nearly every one of which had a barn, cribs, servant quarters, etc., to one side; there were additional houses on the outskirts of the town, altogether giving the place an appearance of compactness and substantiality that the enclosed plan merely indicates. I, personally, have visited the site of the town many times with my father, Dr. E. N. Wright, who lived at Old Boggy from 1859 to 1885. He has painstakingly pointed out to me the location of the buildings of the inclosed plan. In 1922, the foundations of a number of these were still to be seen, especially that of the brick church; also, there were a number of sand-stone markers, bearing initials and dates, at the sites of the old graves where burials were made previous to those at the regular cemetery. To-day traces of the main streets of the town are clearly visible; likewise clumps of china-berry trees mark the locations of the yards, that surrounded the houses. There are a number of large, cemented cisterns and old well sites to be found here, also.

**MURIEL H. WRIGHT.**

[Return to top](#)

---

[Electronic Publishing Center](#) | [OSU Home](#) | [Search this Site](#)



# Boggy Depot, Oklahoma

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Boggy Depot** is a ghost town and Oklahoma State Park that was formerly a significant city in the Indian Territory. It grew as a vibrant and thriving town in present day Atoka County, Oklahoma, United States and became a major trading center on the Texas Road and the Butterfield Overland Mail route between Missouri and San Francisco. After the Civil War when the MKT Railroad came through it bypassed Boggy Depot and the town began a steady decline. It was soon replaced by Atoka as the chief city in the area. By the early 1900s all that remained of the community was a sort of ghost town.

## Contents

- 1 History
- 2 Today
- 3 Notes
- 4 Further reading
- 5 See also
- 6 External links

## History

The United States government removed the Choctaws and Chickasaws from Mississippi and Alabama to the new Indian Territory, including the area of Boggy Depot, in the 1830's. While at first the Choctaws and Chickasaws lived together jointly on the Choctaw land the Chickasaws later emigrated to the western portions of the Indian Territory and eventually formed their own separate nation. 1834 General Henry Leavenworth built the military road from Camp Washita (later Fort Washita) to Fort Gibson. For years this road was generally the division between the Choctaw and Chickasaw lands. Afterwards a treaty created a formal dividing line between the nations, with Boggy Depot on the east side of the line in Choctaw lands. Reverend Cyrus Kingsbury established the church in Boggy Depot in 1840. The church building was the temporary capitol of the Choctaw Nation in 1859. Boggy Depot received a post office in 1848, and in 1858 became a stop on the Butterfield Overland Stage line. During the Civil War a Union raiding party fought a Confederate group at the Battle of Middle Boggy Depot a few miles northeast of Boggy Depot. After the Civil War with Boggy Depot clearly in the Choctaw nation many of the original settlers, mostly Chickasaws, abandoned Boggy Depot. A small community formed near this time two miles to the south named New Boggy Depot. Choctaw Chief Allen Wright, who lived at Boggy Depot, coined the word 'Oklahoma' in 1866 to describe the Indian Territory. The name was officially used for the state in 1907. In 1869 Oklahoma's first Masonic Lodge was founded in Boggy Depot.

As part of the treaty between the Five Civilized Tribes and the United States government at the end of the Civil War the tribes had to allow a north to south railroad to be constructed across their lands. This railroad became a reality in 1872. The Missouri Kansas and Texas railroad, or Katy, ran 12 miles east of Boggy Depot and was the end of the town's importance. The city of Atoka, on the railroad, flourished while Boggy Depot languished.

## Today

Today little is left of the original town except for a few stone foundations and the cemetery. Boggy Depot State Park is a recreational area at the site and preserves the memory of the town.

Boggy Depot was added to the National Register of Historic Places (#72001050) in 1972.

## Notes

## Further reading

- Morris, John W. *Ghost Towns of Oklahoma* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1977).
- Wright, Muriel H. "Old Boggy Depot", *Chronicles of Oklahoma*5:1 (March 1927) 4-17 (retrieved August 16, 2006).

## See also

- Bostic, E. McCurdy. "Elizabeth Fulton Hester", *Chronicles of Oklahoma*6:4 (December 1928) 449-452 (retrieved November 19, 2008).
- Foreman, Grant. *Down the Texas Road: Historic Places along Highway 69 Through Oklahoma* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1936).
- Lewis, Anna. "Trading Post at the Crossing of the Chickasaw Trails", *Chronicles of Oklahoma*12:4 (December 1934) 447-453 (retrieved November 19, 2008).
- Meserve, John Bartlett. [http://digital.library.okstate.edu/chronicles/v019/v019p010.html"

Governor William Malcolm Guy"], *Chronicles of Oklahoma*19:1 (March 1941) 10-13 (retrieved November 19, 2008).

- Wright, Muriel H. and LeRoy H. Fischer. "Civil War Sites in Oklahoma," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* 44 (Summer 1966).
- Wright, Muriel H. "Historic Places on the Old Stage Line from Fort Smith to Red River" *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* 11:2 (June 1933).

## External links

- Boggy Depot State Park
- Red River Historian - Boggy Depot
- Boggy Depot, Oklahoma is at coordinates 34.2987014, -96.3024934
- Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture - Boggy Depot

Butterfield Overland Mail in Indian Territory				
Next station West	17	Boggy Depot,	16	Next station East

Nail's Station	miles	<b>Oklahoma</b>	miles	Geary's Station
----------------	-------	-----------------	-------	-----------------

Retrieved from "[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boggy\\_Depot,\\_Oklahoma](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boggy_Depot,_Oklahoma)"

Categories: [Atoka County, Oklahoma](#) | [History of Oklahoma](#) | [Ghost towns in Oklahoma](#) | [Butterfield Overland Mail](#) | [National Register of Historic Places in Oklahoma](#)

- This page was last modified on 20 November 2008, at 02:39.
- All text is available under the terms of the GNU Free Documentation License. (See **Copyrights** for details.)

Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a U.S. registered 501(c)(3) tax-deductible nonprofit charity.

## 30 HOW THE STATES GOT THEIR SHAPES

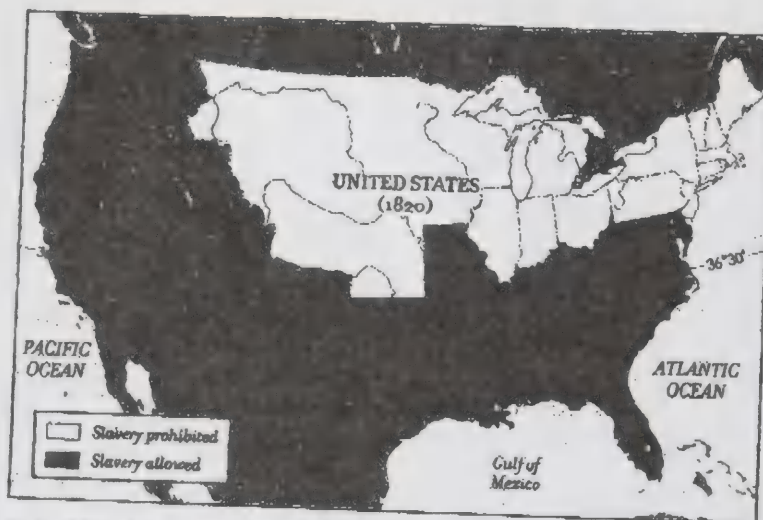


FIG. 25 The Northern Border of the Arkansas Territory—1820 Missouri Compromise

having it follow the St. Francis River south to the 36th parallel. (See Figure 103, in MISSOURI, where there are more details.)

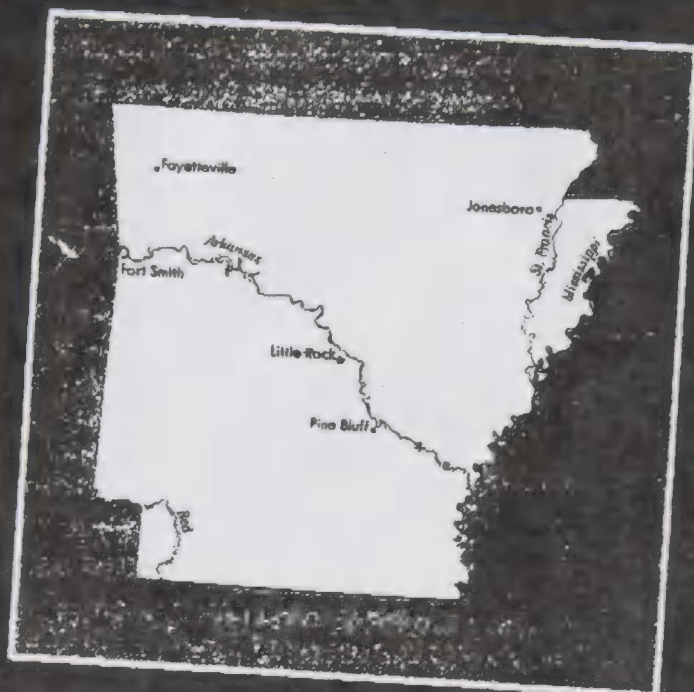
#### Western Border of Arkansas

Also in 1819, the year Congress created Arkansas, the United States negotiated what was to become the notch in Arkansas' southwest corner. The Adams-Onís Treaty defined Spanish territory from the Louisiana Purchase territory. (Figure 26. See also DON'T SKIP THIS.) One segment of that division was a line due north from the point where the Sabine River crosses 32° N latitude. This turn in the border between the United States and Spanish-ruled Mexico accounts for the notch in the southwest corner of Arkansas. (For more details, go to LOUISIANA and TEXAS.)

But why leave a notch? When the Arkansas Territory was vertically



## ARKANSAS



Arkansas is a state in the southern United States. It is known for its natural beauty, including the Ozark Mountains and the Arkansas River. The state capital is Little Rock. Other major cities include Fayetteville, Jonesboro, Fort Smith, and Pine Bluff. Arkansas is also known for its agriculture, particularly cotton and rice.

In 1836, Arkansas was admitted to the Union as the 25th state. It was the only state to be admitted to the Union during the Reconstruction era. Arkansas was a slave state during the American Civil War. It was the only southern state to be readmitted to the Union without first being a Confederate state.

100th meridian as the point at which the border turned due north from the Red River, go to TEXAS.)

#### Oklahoma's Eastern Border

In 1821, Congress created the territory of Arkansas. Originally, the western border of Arkansas was intended to be a straight-line continuation of the western border of Missouri. This would have resulted in Oklahoma sharing this straight-line continuation as its eastern border. But only a small segment of Oklahoma's eastern border matches the western border of Missouri, that being the portion directly between Oklahoma and Missouri.

The remainder of Oklahoma's eastern border consists of two other segments. These segments resulted from the Treaty of Doak Stand, the document responsible for the removal of the Choctaw Indians from Mississippi to what would become Oklahoma. In negotiating the treaty, the United States inadvertently gave the Choctaw not only land in the future Oklahoma but a hefty slice of Arkansas, too. After renegotiating the treaty (a process that entailed the demise of noncooperative Indian leaders), the Arkansas border was partially corrected. It now emanated from a point 100 paces west of Fort Smith, from which point it proceeded in two directions: due south to the Red River and north by northwest to the southwest corner of Missouri. These two directions are today the two segments of the Oklahoma/Arkansas border. (Figure 140)

Oklahoma's eastern boundary is an artifact of Indian treaties and of "renegotiated" Indian treaties. That this line is twice bent makes it a fitting border to a territory into which the government herded so many Native Americans.

#### Oklahoma's Northern Border

Oklahoma is the only state in the union to have borders at both  $37^{\circ}$  and  $36^{\circ}30'$ , which is to say Oklahoma is the only state in the union whose borders embody artifacts of an important shift in American history.



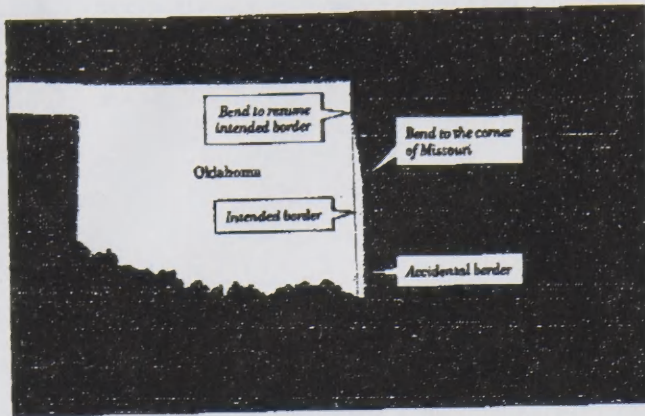


FIG. 140 Oklahoma's Twice-Bent Eastern Border

When the future Oklahoma's neighbor to the south, Texas, entered the Union in 1846, it wanted to maintain slavery, which it had permitted during its days as an independent republic. Under the Missouri Compromise (1820), however, Texas could not be a slave state if its borders extended north of  $36^{\circ}30'$ . So Texas lopped off its lands north of  $36^{\circ}30'$  and gave them to the United States. In doing so, Texas created what would later become the southern border of the Oklahoma Panhandle.

Eight years later, in 1854, the Kansas-Nebraska Act relegated the Missouri Compromise to the junk heap of efforts to negotiate slavery. In dispensing with  $36^{\circ}30'$  as the determinant for where slavery could exist, Congress altered the proposed southern border of Kansas, setting it at  $37^{\circ}$ . This line would later become the northern border of Oklahoma. (Figure 141) It also enabled Congress, in the years ahead, to create a tier of four prairie states that each had three degrees of height and a tier of three Rocky Mountain states that each had four degrees of height. (See Figures 11 and 12, in DON'T SKIP THIS.)

These two borders, both of which remain today as the northern and southern borders of Oklahoma's panhandle, bear witness to a key shift



## ARKANSAS 32

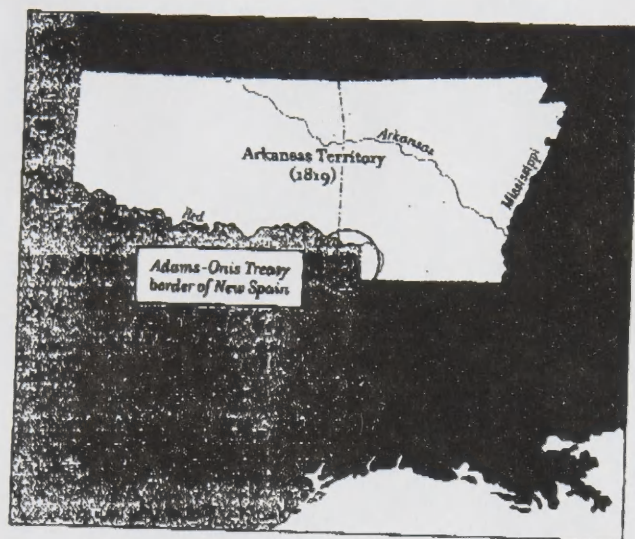


FIG. 26 Origin of the Notch in Southwest Corner of Arkansas

divided, creating Arkansas on the east and what would become Oklahoma on the west, why didn't Congress make the border between Arkansas and Oklahoma simply a continuation of the straight line coming up from the Sabine River in Texas (or a continuation of the straight line coming down from Missouri)? And why is the line that became the western border bent? Did someone goof?

Actually, someone did goof. And it was none other than Andrew Jackson. The line that serves as the western border of southern Missouri was indeed intended to continue as the western edge of Arkansas. But in negotiating with the Choctaws in 1820, Jackson inadvertently gave them far more of Arkansas than he realized. The Choctaws, after considerable urging (including a possibly involuntary "suicide" of one of their leaders), renegotiated the border in 1824, agreeing to relocate farther west, but not as far west as the western border of Missouri.

Under this later treaty, the eastern boundary of the Choctaw lands



## 32 HOW THE STATES GOT THEIR SHAPES



FIG. 27 The Angle in the Western Border of Arkansas

began 100 paces west of the southwest corner of the main garrison at Fort Smith. After 100 paces, the lower half of the boundary extended due south to its intersection with the Red River. The upper half angled slightly on a straight line to the southwest corner of Missouri. (Figure 27) To this day, this line serves as the western border of Arkansas.